

MEDITATIONS ON THE TRUE CHRISTIAN LIFE

....*"This book of the law [the Word of God] shall not depart from [always be in] your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful [take heed] to do according to all that is written in it; for THEN you will make your way prosperous, and THEN you will have success".... Joshua 1:8 NASB*

October 8th

**"And if I bestow all my goods to feed the poor and give my body to be burned,"*

that is if one were able to feed the poor of this generation, to rear libraries and hospitals in every city and town and if one wears their body out in philanthropic endeavour and yet does not have "Agapa", it profits them nothing; they have wasted their life, it is poured out like water upon a sand pile. What is the thing without which human endeavour, human learning, human achievements, are failures? It is this new love, the revelation of the heart of God that Jesus brought to the earth. It is a revelation, but it is more. It is the life of God outpoured in our hearts, manifesting itself through our words and conduct. It is the pulsation of the heart of God, manifesting itself in an atmosphere that comes from our spirits, blessing and comforting a needy world. It is God's answer to the despairing cry of the broken-hearted human.

Paul tells us that "Agapa" suffereth long and is kind". "Phileo" may suffer, but it eventually grows bitter under the burden.

"Agapa envieth not". "Phileo" has always manifested itself in envy and jealousy.

"Agapa vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up." Phileo has forever vaunted itself. Self is the centre around which it moves. If you take selfishness from phileo, it would crumble and fall to the ground; that is its very strength.

"Agapa does not behave itself unseemly". Phileo airs its grievances in the divorce court. It grows wildly jealous and strikes down in cold blood the object of its affection in order to serve its own purposes.

"Agapa seeketh not its own". The struggle of "phileo" from its birth to its

death is to get and hold its own. It is unhappy. It is miserly. It becomes dishonest and treacherous. Its motto is "all things are fair in love and war." It is a cruel despot, but it is the best this old human had from the Fall until Jesus came.

"Agapa is not provoked". Phileo is ultra-sensitive and difficult to handle. It is easily provoked. It tells us that it is very sensitive and must not be neglected or rudely shocked. This kind of sensitiveness is and always has been of the Devil.

"Agapa taketh not account of evil." Phileo is always discussing and feasting upon the scandals of the world.

"Agapa rejoiceth not in unrighteousness but rejoices with the truth". Phileo cannot understand this. It turns to hatred and revenge at the slightest provocation, and it always rejoices in the fall of its enemy, and it cannot rejoice with the truth if that truth does not gratify its passion.

"Agapa beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things." Agapa never goes bankrupt. Phileo squanders its fortune in its youth in riotous living, and before it comes to manhood's strength, it is in danger of being dashed on the rocks of failure. What is Agapa? The apostle John tells us that God is Agapa. In other words this new thing that Jesus brought to the world is the nature of the great Creator God, which He intended should permeate all creation. He intended that it should rule animals and that it should be the nature of the human, but with the Fall, spiritual death took its place, and out of this awful nature of the Devil springs hatred, revenge, and unbelief. A spirit of restlessness grips all nature. Man and beast, today, are dominated by this foreign, unnatural power; and yet the heart of the animal and the heart of the human are sobbing for Agapa; when the strong will no longer feed upon the weak - the poor will no longer be exploited by the rich, and God shall rule over all.

"Agapa", is the new law of the Church, the family of God. Reader, does Agapa govern you, or are you still dominated by the old corrupt "human love".

...."Love [Agapa] endures long and is patient and kind; love [Agapa] never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no

attention to a suffered wrong]. It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. Love [Agapa] bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening]. Love [Agapa] never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]".... 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 The Amplified Translation